(b) whether this shortage has arisen because of imported stock of Australian wheat in the godowns;

(c) if so, why Australian wheat was imported when there was enough wheat in the country; and

(d) what steps are being taken to increase the storage capacity so that farmers do not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India is having adequate storage capacity of 23.62 million tonnes against stocks held at 15.84 million tonnes as on 1.2.99.

Further the Field Officers of FCI have been delegated full powers to hire additional storage capacity from State Government/CWC/SWCs and private parties as per their requirement from time to time.

(c) Due to untimely rains, the Ministry of Agriculture had estimated less production of wheat during rabi season 1997-98 as compared to the immediately preceeding year. It was accordingly decided by the Government to import wheat from Australia to the tune of 15 lakh metric tonnes against which 14.15 lakh metric tonnes was actually received by November, 1998.

(d) The construction of storage capacity is a continous activity. Addition in storage capacity is being made year after year by FCI and other agencies keeping in view the specific requirements of the States and availability of funds.

Pending cases in Consumer Courts

2824. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of cases pending in Consumer Courts, State-wise, and also in the National Consumer Redressal Forum;

(b) what steps are being taken for early disposal of such cases;

(c) whether all the verdicts are properly implemented; and

(d) if not, what steps are being taken for proper implementation of the Forum's Verdicts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The number of cases pending in the National Commission, State Commissions & District Fora as on 1.4.99 are 6523, 58434 & 224037 respectively. The State-wise break-up for the State Commissions and District Fora is given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Central Government for speedy disposal of pending cases by the consumer courts are as follows:

(i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts, Central Government has provided one-time-grant of Rs. 61.8 crores to the State/UTs during 1995—99.

(ii) Central/State Governments and the National Commission are regularly monitoring the working of the consumer courts.

(iii) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Members/Presidents of various Consumer Courts on priority basis.

(iv) Central Government has written to State/UT Governments for ensuring the normal functioning and monitoring of these Courts on regular basis.

(c) and (d) The verdicts of the Consumer Courts are implemented as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. In case of non-compliance of any order, the aggrieved party can file an appeal in the same Consumer Court invoking Section 27 of the said Act.

Statement

State-wise details of pending cases in State Commission and District Fora as on 1.4.1999.

State/UT	State Commission	District Fora
Andhra Pradesh	1638	16497
Arunachal Pradesh	5	23
Assam	689	897
Bihar	2584	12748
Goa	104	574
Gujarat	2251	17086
Haryana	1974	14583
Himachal Pradesh	114	1730
Jammu & Kashmir	850	1879
Karnataka	2065	10875
Kerala	537	5735
Madhya Pradesh	2774	9256
Maharashtra	5273	18435
Manipur	45	24
Meghalaya	27	45
Mizoram	6	36
Nagaland	0	4
Orissa	2864	4223
Punjab	1653	2877
Rajasthan	10368	13946
Sikkim	0	5
Tamil Nadu	2023	6323
Tripura	57	151
Uttar Pradesh	16488	59161
West Bengal	515	4907
A and N Island	1	20
Chandigarh Adm.	192	4001
D and N Haveli	0	5
Daman and Diu	1	31
Delhi	3296	17879
Lakshadweep	0	1
Pondicherry	40	80
TOTAL	58434	224037

Contamination of Poly Packed Milk

2825. SHRI K.R. MALKANI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Education and Research Society (CERS) has tested 28 widely sold brands of milk distributed in poly packets and found all of them contaminated with health threatening bacteria, as reported in the Times of India dated the 22nd February, 1999;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this contamination; and

(c) what Government propose to do about it?